AppL No. 09/900,691
Reply to Office Action of December 22, 2003

REMARKS

The final Office Action was issued on pending claims 1-12. Claims 1-12 stand rejected. In this Response, claims 1 and 7 have been amended and no claims have been added or cancelled. Thus, claims 1-12 are pending in the application.

Applicants invite the Examiner to call Applicants' Representative to discuss any issues with this application.
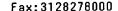
Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

In Office Action paragraph 4, claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Picard et al. (US 6,233,318). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the claim. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to recite "a transmission apparatus for sequentially requesting all individual voice messages stored in the voice memory system via a single input." Claim 1 has also been clarified by reciting "a memory apparatus for separately storing the individual voice messages in the voice processing apparatus." These amendments are supported by the specification at page 4, lines 23-26.

Applicants' invention, as claimed in claim 1, provides for all of the voice messages stored in the voice memory system to be retrieved by a single input request for the multiple messages. Further, all of the messages are then stored separately in a memory apparatus of the voice processing apparatus. Applicants' voice processing apparatus provides advantages. Multiple voices messages do not need to be retrieved individually by multiple input requests. Rather, all voice messages are retrieved easily and conveniently by a single input request. Further, even though multiple messages are retrieved together with a single input, the individual messages are then stored separately for convenient listening of desired messages in any desired order.

Turning to Picard et al., Picard et al. describes a voice mail system whereby the user is informed of the stored voice messages via a HTML page. This is similar to the voice mail

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system of Swartz. Subsequently, the user can <u>individually</u> download the stored voice messages. Picard et al. states at column 7, lines 20-23 "In a PC interface the user clicks an inventory entry to select <u>the message</u> to be retrieved; the system <u>retrieves the appropriate message</u> and provides it to the user in the proper format." (emphasis supplied). Picard et al. also states at column 13, lines 22-32 "...If <u>the message</u> is on the EMS 66, the EMS 66 uses POP to <u>retrieve the message</u> from the VMS 68...., and outputs it to the subscriber...." (emphasis supplied). Applicants submit that nowhere does Picard et al. disclose or suggest that the voice mail system request multiple stored voice messages together by one simple input whereby the voice processing apparatus automatically sequentially requests the voice messages and stores them separately. Indeed, it would be contrary to the voice mail system of Picard et al. to modify the system to request all individual voice mail messages with a single input. Therefore, Picard et al. does not disclose or suggest Applicants' claimed invention.

Thus, Applicants submit that the §102 rejections have been overcome.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

In Office Action paragraph 6, claims 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Swartz (US 6,445,694) in view of Pawlowski et al. (US 6,038,199). In Office Action paragraph 7, claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Picard et al. in view of Walsh et al. (US 5,797,124). In Office Action paragraph 8, claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swartz in view of Pawlowski et al. and further in view of Walsh et al. Applicants respectfully disagree.

As to claims 3-6 and 11, those claims depend from claim 1. Thus, claims 3-6 and 11 are allowable at least for the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

As to claim 7, claim 7 has been clarified. The method of claim 7 calls for "requesting all individual voice messages with a single input." The amendment to claim 7 is similar to the amendment to claim 1 and clarifies that all of the voice individual messages are requested with only a single input. Claims 8-10 and 12 depend from claim 7.

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Regarding Picard et al., Picard et al. does not disclose or suggest requesting all voice messages with a single input as discussed above with reference to claim 1.

Regarding Swartz and Pawlowski et al., Applicants kindly refer to the comments on those references in the Response submitted on September 15, 2003.

Regarding Walsh et al., Walsh et al. also does not disclose or suggest requesting all voice messages with a single input. The Office Action does not assert Walsh et al. contains such a disclosure. Column 3, lines 19-26 of Walsh et al. merely describes grouping together voice messages from the same caller based on the caller's return address. That does not disclose requesting all individual voice messages with a single input.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the § 103(a) rejections have been overcome.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the patent application is in condition for allowance and request a Notice of Allowance be issued.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. 02-1818 for any fees associated with the submission of this Response, including any time extension fees. Please reference docket number 112740-237.

Respectfully submitted,
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